



Congresswoman

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Winter 2002

Congresswoman Stakes Out Ambitious 2002 Financial & Democracy Goals

- ✓ *Fair Federal Compensation to D.C. Government*
- ✓ *Voting Rights Hearings in House and Senate*
- ✓ *Open Society with Security Bill*

. . . Scores Major 2001 Victories D.C. Did Not Expect

- ✓ *Large Domestic Terrorism Funding*
- ✓ *Expanded College Access Act*
- ✓ *Domestic Partnership Breakthrough*

More Goals and Victories Inside

The Tax Man Cometh! **See You at the Norton Tax Preparation & Information Fair**

Saturday, February 9, 2002
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library
9th & G Streets, NW

Get Free Help Filling Out Federal and D.C. Tax Forms From IRS and D.C. Tax Experts

- ❖ Learn How to Save \$\$\$ by Using D.C.-only \$5000 Homebuyer Credit and Tax Breaks for Small Businesses
- ❖ Learn if You Qualify for the Earned Income Credit (EIC) for Working People Who Earn Low to Moderate Incomes
- ❖ Get Help with E-filing
- ❖ Pay Taxes Owed
- ❖ Get Answers to Your Questions
- ❖ First Come-First Served

(Bring W-2's, Form 1099, documentation such as receipts and business expense totals, and dependents' social security cards to support deductions and credits. Forms 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, D-40, D-40EZ and Schedules A, B, EIC, R, and C-EZ will be prepared.)

Metro: Gallery Place-- Yellow, Red & Green Lines, Metro Center--Orange, Blue & Red Lines

Buses: A2, P6, 42, 80, S4, X2, N4

Parking: Private garages, limited street parking

Learn about new tuition benefits (see page 4). Learn about federal services: call our Congressional District Office, (202) 783-5065.

TAXATION DEMANDS REPRESENTATION



NORTON ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE WAR ON TERROR

Norton confers with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at the Capitol.

Norton Keeps Moving on Brentwood Anthrax Crisis

- Insistence on no reopening of Brentwood until clean-up equals clean-up given congressional buildings (she is a voting member of a Postal Service oversight committee, the Government Reform Committee)
- Cosponsors Anthrax Victims Compensation Act for victims and families
- Cosponsors bill to name Brentwood for two deceased postal workers

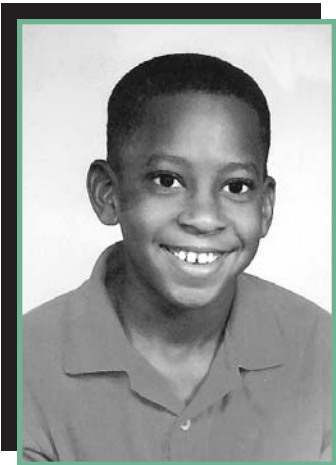
Help Wanted: Airport Security Workers!

Norton Pushes D.C. Residents to Front of Line

Up to 30,000 jobs nationwide at salaries \$20,900 to \$150,000. Send your name and email address to screener@ost.dot.gov OR call Department of Transportation toll free, 1-866-404-1227, to leave name and mailing addresses, OR go to DOT website (www.dot.gov).

Remembering the Youngest Victims of the Pentagon Attack

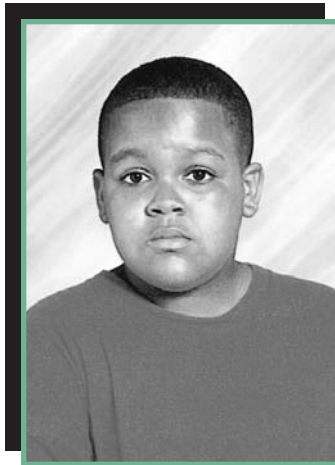
“The assault was more than a national tragedy. It was personal. Six of the victims were D.C. public school students and teachers. I represented the three 11-year-old children when they lived . . . Somehow, I felt, I had to represent them now. I decided



Bernard Brown



Asia Cottom



Rodney Dickens

to take flags that had flown over the Capitol to their three schools. I asked the children to be good students in memory of their classmates whenever they saw their flag flying.”

EXCERPT FROM NORTON COLUMN IN
ESSENCE MAGAZINE,
NOVEMBER, 2001

Three D.C. teachers, Sarah Clark, James Debeuneure and Hilda Taylor; and National Geographic Society employees, Joe Farguson and Ann Judge, were with the children on the trip sponsored by the Society.

Norton Acts on Key Tourist Attractions To Help Spur D.C. Economy

The Congresswoman has refused to sit still for closings, cancellations, and barricades that shut out tourists and shut down the D.C. economy.

Norton Actions

- ▲ Arranged a White House meeting with top White House officials after September 11. White House Task Force formed
- ▲ Arranged a Wilson Building meeting with White House security officials
- ▲ Helped get White House tours reopened to children
- ▲ Got tours of the Capitol, a major tourist attraction, restarted
- ▲ After complaints, the White House reversed closing of national Christmas tree lighting ceremony
- ▲ Helped keep Independence and Constitution Avenues from being closed
- ▲ Worked with House Speaker to get biggest ever Capitol tree lighting ceremony

Norton Goals

- ▲ Reopen E Street
- ▲ Speed return to full operations at National Airport
- ▲ Fund traffic management system to ease traffic congestion
- ▲ Fund design plan to beautify security barriers
- ▲ Operate secured buses on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of White House

Norton Sets Goals, Counts Victories

2002 Goals

❖ Federal Bill to Eliminate D.C.'s Structural Deficit

Our first bill of the second session will address D.C.'s dangerous structural revenue imbalance.

❖ Voting Rights Hearings in House and Senate

❖ Votes on Budget Autonomy

Norton has just gotten a unanimous House subcommittee vote for city control of its budget with no prior Congressional approval. She will press the bill forward in both houses.

❖ Open Society with Security Bill

To help us understand how to keep the country and this city open, free and secure at the same time, Norton will introduce a bill to establish a Presidential Commission. The Commission would bring together the best minds for intensive study and preparation of a report for the Congress and the President on strategies to accommodate the American value of a democratic, open society with the vital need for increased security against terrorism.

2001 Victories

❖ Over \$200 Million in New Anti-terrorism Funds

Norton successfully argued that D.C. Police, Fire, EMS and health workers are the first responders for both 600,000 local residents and 200,000 federal employees. These agencies are just rebuilding local capability after D.C.'s acute financial crisis of the 1990's. She also insisted that Metro get funds to make subway tunnels, bus stations, and vehicles more secure.

❖ Expansion of In-State Tuition Act *see p. 4*

❖ Domestic Partnership Riders Removed *see below*

❖ Reopening National Airport to full capacity

❖ Family Court Division Reformed and Funded *see below*

❖ D.C. Senatorial Rights for Federal Nominations

Congresswoman Norton requested and received from President Bush and Senate Judiciary Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) the same rights as Senate Democrats in selecting U.S. District Court judges and the U.S. Attorney here. This authority makes D.C. equal to other jurisdictions in major federal appointments. Senator Leahy also consults with her before agreeing to hearings on Bush nominees. During the Clinton Administration, for the first time in the city's history, Norton achieved senatorial courtesy.

❖ D.C. Police Coordination Act Amendment Act

The D.C. Police Coordination Amendment Act, an expansion of the 1997 Police Coordination Act, permits any federal law enforcement agency to enter into an agreement to assist the MPD in patrolling D.C. neighborhoods and preventing crime. Federal officers cover areas near federal buildings and offices in every ward. In all, 400 federal officers stationed throughout D.C. will patrol neighborhoods near their agencies, process suspects, and share radio frequencies with the MPD.



Congresswoman Norton restarts tours of the Capitol with students from Backus Middle School. Call (202) 783-5065 to participate in Norton's "D.C. Students in the Capitol" program.

Family Court Reform Law Benefits Children and Families

Norton and Majority Whip Tom DeLay, who has been a foster parent, wrote the D.C. Family Court Act of 2001 after the death of the infant Brianna Blackmond exposed weaknesses in the Superior Court.

- ❖ \$24 million in new money, 15 judges
- ❖ All family matters involving parents and children in the same family to the same judge
- ❖ Family matters only to the Family Division rather than all 59 Superior Court judges
- ❖ Fixed terms for Family Division judges before rotation to other divisions
- ❖ Extensive use of alternative dispute resolution and mediation instead of litigation, where possible
- ❖ Continuous training for judges and court personnel

Norton Hails Domestic Partners Victory

Condemns Ban on Public Needle Exchange Funding

After a long struggle, one of the most controversial and detested riders was finally removed in this year's D.C. appropriation. Since 1992, when the District passed its domestic partnership law (Health Care Benefits Extension Act), Norton has fought annual congressional attachments that have kept the law from being enforced. The riders were directed against gays but also denied coverage on D.C. health plans, at the partner's expense, to relatives and caregivers living together.

In the 2002 appropriation struggle, 41 Republicans joined 184 House Democrats to defeat this rider. "This was a tremendous breakthrough," she said, "because the House has been the main seat of anti-gay sentiment and actions." Under the leadership of D.C. Appropriations chair Mary Landrieu, the domestic partnership rider was not raised on the Senate floor.

Norton also was successful in removing restrictions on D.C.'s private needle exchange program, essential to preventing the spread of AIDS. However, the House used its power to attach a rider forbidding the use of D.C. money for needle exchange. She said that its removal is a priority for this year's appropriation cycle.

Domestic Partner Law Allows Partners to:

- ❖ Purchase health insurance at partner's expense if one partner is an employee of the D.C. government
- ❖ Take sick or bereavement leave to care for a partner, or to make funeral arrangements
- ❖ Health care facilities, including hospitals and convalescent and long-term care facilities must allow domestic partner visitation

A Leader on African American Museum

Congresswoman Norton is an original co-sponsor of a law establishing a Presidential Commission to plan a National Museum of African American History and Culture here. She has co-sponsored this bill along with Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) since coming to Congress.

“African Americans have been at the very center of the development of our country itself, let alone its history, from our music and all that is unique about American culture to our most historic structures, including this Capitol building built with the labor of free blacks and slaves.

Mr. Speaker, there are all manner of museums and monuments in this capital. It is astonishing to me that we have entered the 21st century, the third century of our existence as a Nation, with precious few monuments or structures of any kind to commemorate African Americans or African American history.”

EXCERPT FROM FLOOR STATEMENT, 12/11/01

Norton Releases Report on Deficient D.C. Nursing Home Conditions

Mayor Williams Announces First D.C. Regs

“Many of the conditions in nursing homes...are at least partly traceable to a successful Republican effort in 1997 that repealed the Boren Amendment guaranteeing that nursing homes would be paid “reasonable and adequate” rates to provide quality care. Nevertheless, the District and nursing home operators must take responsibility for nursing home standards in this city, whatever the failings at the congressional level. There can never be any excuse for inadequate care for disabled and elderly people, who are virtually helpless in nursing homes.”

—CONGRESSWOMAN NORTON AT JANUARY PRESS
CONFERENCE WITH MAYOR WILLIAMS AND
D.C. AARP PRESIDENT ROMAIN THOMAS

Compliance of DC Nursing Homes with Federal Health and Safety Standards

Fully or Substantially
Compliant24%
Potential for More
than Minimal Harm76%

Four Major Nursing Home Bills Norton is sponsoring would:

- ❖ increase Medicaid funds
- ❖ boost federal dollars for nursing homes
- ❖ increase nurse aides
- ❖ provide more federal funds to recruit and train nursing home staff

More Students Eligible for In-State Tuition or \$2,500 Stipend!

The College Access Improvement Act has passed both houses and is due for final passage and signing in time for as many as 1500 additional students to qualify this spring and 1500 more for the 2002-2003 school year. The Improvement Act expands the College Access Act, which allows residents to pay only low in-state tuition to attend any U.S. public college or university or \$2,500 to attend any private institution in the city or region.

New Benefits

- ❖ Attendance at any HBCU in the country, not only this region
- ❖ Requirement to enroll within three years of high school graduation removed

Call (202) 727-2824 for information.

Norton Asks D.C. Residents to Fight New Voting Rights Outrage

Can denial of voting rights be made worse? Congress did just that in the 2002 D.C. appropriations bill. The House refused to remove language no longer applicable barring D.C. from using any funds on the 2000 Supreme Court voting rights case (except for limited review by public officials). In the 2002 D.C. appropriations bill, the House insisted on a ban on D.C. funds for any lobbying for voting rights. However, Norton persuaded the Senate at least to allow D.C. elected officials to lobby, and the House went along. **Residents are invited to join elected officials and civil rights leaders in meetings with Members to discuss this ban, as well as her voting rights bill. Look for more information soon!**



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Tax Fair February 9th — Called to Serve Without a Vote